

## X-rays, photos prove Warren Report wrong, says Baltimore author



President Kennedy waves  
from the limousine. A few moments  
later, he was assassinated.

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By Henry Scarupa

**O**n this date in 1964, the Warren Report was issued to the public, spawning 25 years of skepticism about its conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Among those who have spent nearly that entire time probing the who-killed-Kennedy mystery is Baltimore author Harrison Edward Livingstone, who claims to have found the "greasy thumbprint" that undermines the report and the U.S. government's version of what happened in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

A fiction writer and playwright, Mr. Livingstone charges that autopsy photographs and X-rays were faked and do not show Kennedy's wounds as seen and recalled by competent eyewitnesses. He points to inconsistencies between the photos and the X-rays, with the X-rays indicating injuries that do not appear in the photos. Only people well-placed in government could have carried out the murder, and the cover-up that followed, he argues.

He carefully lays out all this in "High Treason," the 470-page book he wrote with Robert J. Groden and self-published last March, purporting to tell what happened. Included are several autopsy photos of Kennedy which he says have never before appeared in print.

He has already sold out the book's initial printing of 5,000 and now is bringing out a second

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Harrison Edward Livingstone claims that  
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edition of 10,000. The sales figures and those of numerous other books addressing the same subject indicates there is no shortage of skeptics finding fault with the Warren Commission's conclusions.

John Adams, one of Mr. Livingstone's backers on the project and dean of Harvard University's Extension School in Cambridge, Mass., from which the author was graduated, calls the book "extremely important."

"He's done an exhaustive study of the Warren Report and knows it better than anyone else I know," he says of the author. "He's gone through all 26 volumes and found the inconsistencies."

To which adds Harold Weisberg, a Frederick-based writer and pioneer critic of the Warren Report, "It took an enormous amount of labor to get the book out, and very few people could have done it without financial means," as was the case with Mr. Livingstone.

Summarizing his thoughts on the assassination, Mr. Livingstone says, "I see all this as a single conspiracy. All the evidence in the case implicating Oswald was planted. He was prepared as the patsy long in advance, the trail laid. He was obviously involved with intelligence agencies."

"The key is the forgery of the medical evidence. The plotters were clearly high up in the government. Soon after the murder, a great deal of U.S. foreign policy changed

course."

Mr. Livingstone bases his initial forged-photos premise on the discoveries of co-author Groden, a photo-optics expert who had served as consultant in the late 1970s for the House Select Committee on Assassinations. (Its report backed the Warren Commission findings.) Mr. Groden charged early on that some of the autopsy photos of the dead president were composites, created by a matte insert process to alter the character of Kennedy's head wound.

Although the committee report included Mr. Groden's dissenting opinion, he says he was prevented by the committee's chief counsel from fully voicing his doubts to committee members. As far back as July 1979 the photo expert shared his findings with a *Sun* reporter, which resulted in an article calling into question the authenticity of the autopsy photos.

Mr. Groden's chief contribution to the book consists of his technical evaluations of photographic evidence. He has termed the familiar backyard photos of Oswald and the rifle as fakes, with Oswald's likeness pasted onto another body. He also worked with a team of experts synchronizing the Zapruder film — footage taken by an amateur photographer documenting the assassination frame by frame — with gunfire recorded on audio tape when a Dallas motorcycle policeman left his radio on during transit through Dealey Plaza with the presidential procession.

Four shots are audible, says Mr. Groden, with the possibility that at least two others were fired. Analysis of the acoustical data indicates one of the shots came from the front,

probably from the grassy knoll area of the plaza, supporting what many witnesses had claimed earlier. The test results were presented to the House Assassinations Committee. Assessing the data, Mr. Livingstone theorizes Kennedy may have taken two shots to the head, from front and back. The Warren Report concluded the president was struck once in the neck and once in the head, both by bullets fired from the sixth floor of the Texas Book Depository building.

By bringing out his book years after the fact, the author has been able to draw on the work of dozens of critics as a point of departure for his own investigations. He made several trips to Dallas, and questioned 14 of the 19 doctors and nurses who saw Kennedy when he was brought into Parkland Hospital. According to

the book, all told Mr. Livingstone that the head wounds they saw differed markedly from what appeared in the official photos.

The key point in their testimony was that they had seen a gaping hole in the back of Kennedy's head, which they believed was an exit wound and indicating that the shot was fired from the front of the limousine rather than the rear. Their statements were corroborated by former Navy technicians, now in civilian life, who were present at the Kennedy autopsy at the Bethesda Naval Hospital. For years the Navy men had been silenced by the threat of court-martial.

Discrepancies also occur between the X-rays and the recollections of the Parkland staff, the autopsy photos and the autopsy report itself. Mr. Livingstone says a frontal X-ray of the president's head, showing a large portion of the right side missing, including the right orb, conflicts with autopsy photos of the wound. The author relied on the expertise of a Baltimore radiologist, among others, in evaluating the X-rays.

But if the photos and X-rays were faked, why the botched job? The conspirators had to move quickly, and in so doing left behind a "greasy

## The official story

Below is a summary of important Warren Report conclusions:

□ **The assassin:** Lee Harvey Oswald, 23, former Marine and onetime defector to the Soviet Union.

□ **The weapon:** 6.5mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifle purchased by Oswald through mail order.

□ **Origin of shots:** Easternmost window of the sixth floor of the Texas Book Depository.

□ **Number of shots:** Three. One (termed the "magic bullet") striking Kennedy in the back, exiting at the throat and veering to hit

Governor Connally just below the right armpit, exiting below the right nipple, then shattering his right wrist and causing a slight wound in the thigh; the second hitting Kennedy in the back of the head and causing the fatal injury; the third, a missed shot, slamming into the curb.

The "magic" or pristine bullet was tagged with the name because of its unusual performance without suffering any distortion on impact. Found on a stretcher in the corridor of Parkland Hospital, it showed no trace of blood or tissue.

—Henry Scarupa

thumbprint," declares Mr. Livingstone.



In rejecting the Warren Report, Mr. Livingstone has elaborated a scenario which he feels is more plausible given the facts that are being steadily uncovered. Oswald, he says, had some sort of involvement with U.S. intelligence, and was sent to the Soviet Union as a spy, probably by the Office of Naval Intelligence. He was set up as the fall guy, with a tell-tale trail carefully laid out months in advance of the assassination.

On the eventful day the conspirators mounted a classic military ambush with three or four gunmen on the scene to ensure the president would not escape. The killers were probably Mafia hit men or Cuban exiles angry with Kennedy over his abandonment of the Bay of Pigs invaders. In Mr. Livingstone's version, four shots struck Kennedy, two from the front and two from the back, and one hit Texas Gov. John Connally. A sixth shot (the third, according to the Warren Report) missed its target and smashed into the curb, sending debris into the face of bystander James Tague.

A drawing in the book suggests possible vantage points from which

the gunmen could have aimed at the president. They include the Dallas Texas Building and the Dallas County Records Building, near the Book Depository, as well as the Depository itself, looking down from the back; a manhole covered by a rectangular grate on the south knoll to the left of the motorcade; manholes on the right and left sides of the triple overpass in front of the president's car; and an area behind a stockade fence on the grassy knoll to the right and front.

Mr. Livingstone notes that there is no hard evidence linking Oswald to the crime, or that any shots actually came from the Book Depository Building. Tactically the Depository, with its sniper's nest set-up in the easternmost window of the sixth floor, could have served as a diversion, allowing the true killers to escape unimpeded and implicating Oswald.

To allow the assassination to occur, Mr. Livingstone says, "Somebody among the president's guard betrayed him, and was in a position to slow down or control the rest of them, which prevented the president from being guarded adequately."

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So who were the perpetrators? "It's a cabal of powerful men," he goes on, "inside and outside of government, backed by powerful interests like some of the Texas oilmen and the defense industry who stood to gain enormous amounts of money in the [Vietnam] war."

The book concludes with a short article by retired Air Force Col. Fletcher Prouty, former liaison between the CIA and the Pentagon, who contends the assassination was a coup by a "War Party" intent on directing U.S. policy to its advantage. Kennedy was killed because he was pulling back from U.S. military involvement in Vietnam. Spearheading such efforts, including the cover-up, is a "Secret Team," according to Colonel Prouty, made up of highly placed officials in the intelligence community, the military and the president's inner circle.

Despite the stone wall critics of the Warren Report have encountered in challenging the official record, Mr. Livingstone believes there is a need to keep hammering away, in hopes that eventually the "truth" will be acknowledged.